

What is claimed is:

1. A vehicle monitoring and reservation system usable in a vehicle sharing system, comprising:

- a) a terminal for accepting a request to use a vehicle;
- b) registering means for registering said users;
- c) vehicle monitoring means to monitor the use of a vehicle;
- d) a parking area for a plurality of users to obtain vehicles from and return vehicles thereto;
- e) a central computer with computing means responsive to said monitoring means for determining when a vehicle will be available for use at said parking area and memory means for storing registration information of said users from said registering means;
- f) communication means responsive to said computing means for communicating the availability of said vehicles; and
- g) an information device responsive to said communications means wherein the user is informed of the availability of said vehicles at said parking area and reserves an available vehicle.

2. The vehicle monitoring and reservation system of claim 1 wherein the vehicle monitoring means comprises a GPS receiver means for receiving radio signals from a GPS which indicates the current ground position of a GPS receiver, whereby the current ground position is also the vehicle's current location when the GPS receiver is coupled thereto.

3. The vehicle monitoring and reservation system of claim 1, wherein the terminal for accepting a user request is selected from a group comprising a web site, pager, telephone, or PDA.

4. The vehicle monitoring and reservation system of claim 1, wherein the information device is selected from a group comprising a web site, pager, telephone, or PDA.

5. The vehicle monitoring and reservation system of claim 2, wherein said communication means communicates the current ground position continuously.

6. The vehicle monitoring and reservation system of claim 1, wherein the vehicle monitoring means comprises geo-fencing means surrounding said parking area, whereby vehicles contained within, entering, or exiting the parking area can be tracked and accounted for.

7. The vehicle monitoring and reservation system of claim 1 wherein the vehicle monitoring means comprises geo-fencing means of various radii surrounding said parking area, whereby vehicles contained within, entering, or exiting the parking area can be tracked and accounted for.

8. The vehicle monitoring and reservation system of claim 3, wherein the terminal further comprises means for receiving user-input information.

9. The vehicle monitoring and reservation system of claim 8 wherein the vehicle monitoring means comprises user-input information submitted by the user at said terminal.

10. The vehicle monitoring and reservation system of claim 9, wherein the user-input information comprises information regarding the user's average past vehicle usage.

11. The vehicle monitoring and reservation system of claim 9, wherein user-input information comprises information regarding the user's intended destination.

12. The vehicle monitoring and reservation system of claim 9, wherein user-input information comprises information regarding the user's intended duration of use.

13. The vehicle monitoring and reservation system of claim 9, wherein user-input information comprises information regarding the user's intended destination and duration of use.

14. The vehicle monitoring and reservation system of claim 10, wherein the user-input information is recalled by the central computer's memory means when the registered user's personal identification number or password is inputted in said terminal.

15. The vehicle monitoring and reservation system of claim 9, wherein the terminal for receiving user-input information is a vehicle mounted device.

16. The vehicle monitoring and reservation system of claim 15, wherein the user-input information is contained on a device selected from a group comprising a key fob, personal identification number, or identification card.

17. The vehicle monitoring and reservation system of claim 16, wherein the user-input information comprises information regarding the user's average past vehicle usage.

18. A vehicle monitoring and reservation system usable in a vehicle sharing system, comprising:

- a) a terminal for accepting a request to use a vehicle and user input information;
- b) registering means for registering said users;
- c) vehicle monitoring means to monitor the use of a vehicle;

- d) a parking area for a plurality of users to obtain vehicles from and return vehicles thereto;
- e) a central computer with computing means responsive to said monitoring means for determining when a vehicle will be available for use at said parking area and memory means for storing registration information of said users from said registering means;
- f) communication means responsive to said computing means for communicating the availability of said vehicles; and
- g) an information device responsive to said communications means wherein the user is informed of the availability of said vehicles at said parking area and reserves an available vehicle.

19. The vehicle monitoring and reservation system of claim 18, wherein the vehicle monitoring means comprises:

- a) geo-fencing means surrounding said parking area, whereby vehicles contained within, entering, or exiting the parking area can be tracked and accounted for; and
- b) user-input information.

20. The vehicle monitoring and reservation system of claim 18, wherein the vehicle monitoring means comprises:

- a) geo-fencing means of various radii surrounding said parking area, whereby vehicles contained within, entering, or exiting the parking area can be tracked and accounted for; and
- b) user-input information.

21. The vehicle monitoring and reservation system of claim 18, wherein the vehicle monitoring means comprises:

- a) geo-fencing means surrounding said parking area, whereby vehicles contained within, entering, or exiting the parking area can be tracked and accounted for;
- b) geo-fencing means of various radii surrounding said parking area, whereby vehicles contained within, entering, or exiting the parking area can be tracked and accounted for; and
- c) user-input information.